

ORDINANCE 2021-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP’S GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 30-96.9b WHICH IS PART OF SECTION 30-96.9 TITLED “PROHIBITED USES” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Philip Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes six (6) marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributor license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from on licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another;
- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchases items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, Section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in Section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as

well as the location, manner and operation times of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, Section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 22, 2021); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five (5) years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five (5) year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham has determined that, because of the present uncertainties regarding the future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on Township of Chatham in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of Township of Chatham's residents and members of the public who visit, travel, or conduct business in Township of Chatham, to amend Township of Chatham's zoning regulations to prohibit all manner of marijuana-related land use and development within the geographic boundaries of Township of Chatham; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16), all cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services are hereby prohibited from operating anywhere in Township of Chatham, except for the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.

- 2. Section 30-96.9b which is part of Section 30-96.9 titled “Prohibited Uses” of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Chatham is hereby repealed and replaced by adding to the list of prohibited uses, the following: “All classes of cannabis establishments or cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services as said terms are defined in Section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 16, but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service.”
- 3. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to give notice at least ten (10) days prior to a hearing on the adoption of this Ordinance to the Morris County Planning Board and all other persons or entities entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-15, including to the Clerks of adjoining municipalities. The Township Clerk shall execute Affidavits of Proof of Service of the notices required by this Section, and shall keep the Affidavits on file along with the Proof of Publication of the notice of the required public hearing on the proposed change.
- 4. After introduction, the Township Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of this Ordinance to the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64. The Planning Board is directed to make and transmit to the Township Committee, within thirty-five (35) days after referral, a report including identification of any provisions in this proposed Ordinance which are inconsistent with the Township’s Master Plan and recommendations concerning any inconsistencies and any other matters as the Board may deem appropriate.
- 5. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Chatham inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.
- 6. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.
- 7. This Ordinance shall take immediately upon: (i) adoption; (ii) publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey; and (iii) filing of the final form of adopted Ordinance by the Township Clerk with the Morris County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16.

Introduced: March 25, 2021

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Adopted:

Attest:

BY: _____
Tracy Ness, Mayor

Gregory J. LaConte, Clerk